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PATTERSON MAKES HISTORY

Senator Bruce Patterson's Bill Marks First Bill Governor Signs into Law

Lansing, Michigan – On Thursday, April 3, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Ceremonial Office of the Capitol Building, Governor Granholm will sign Senator Bruce Patterson's (R – Canton) Senate Bill 160 into law.

When the Governor signs this bill, it will be the first bill she signs into law as Governor.

"I am honored to have my bill be the first bill signed into law by the new Governor. It underscores the bipartisan manner by which I am endeavoring to work on behalf of my constituents," said Patterson.

Senate Bill 160 would create a new act to specify the responsibilities and authority of the Auditor General, which would include conducting audits and examinations of all State departments and agencies, issuing of subpoenas, and compelling the production of documents. The Auditor General could examine the books, accounts, documents, records, activities, and affairs of each of these bodies.

"The taxpayers of this state need to know that all State departments are held accountable for their spending and performance," Patterson said. "My bill is intended to ensure sound fiscal practices are employed and adhered to, and that solid management decisions relative to the state expenditures occur. This bill will accomplish this goal by extending the Auditor General's oversight authority. This power is crucial to their ability to provide us independent, non-partisan audits of the state's finances and performance reviews of state programs."

All officers and employees of State departments and agencies would have to produce all records of their activities and affairs for examination and answer truthfully to all questions relating to those materials.

The Office of the Auditor General supports the bill.

According to the non-partisan Senate and House Fiscal Agencies, the bill has no fiscal impact.